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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/658,069	09/09/2003	Jason L. Bradshaw	2338/5	4071

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EXAMINER

WIEKER, AMANDA FLYNN

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3743

DATE MAILED: 05/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

SP

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/658,069

Applicant(s)

BRADSHAW, JASON L.

Examiner

Amanda F. Wieker

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-48 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 11 April 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

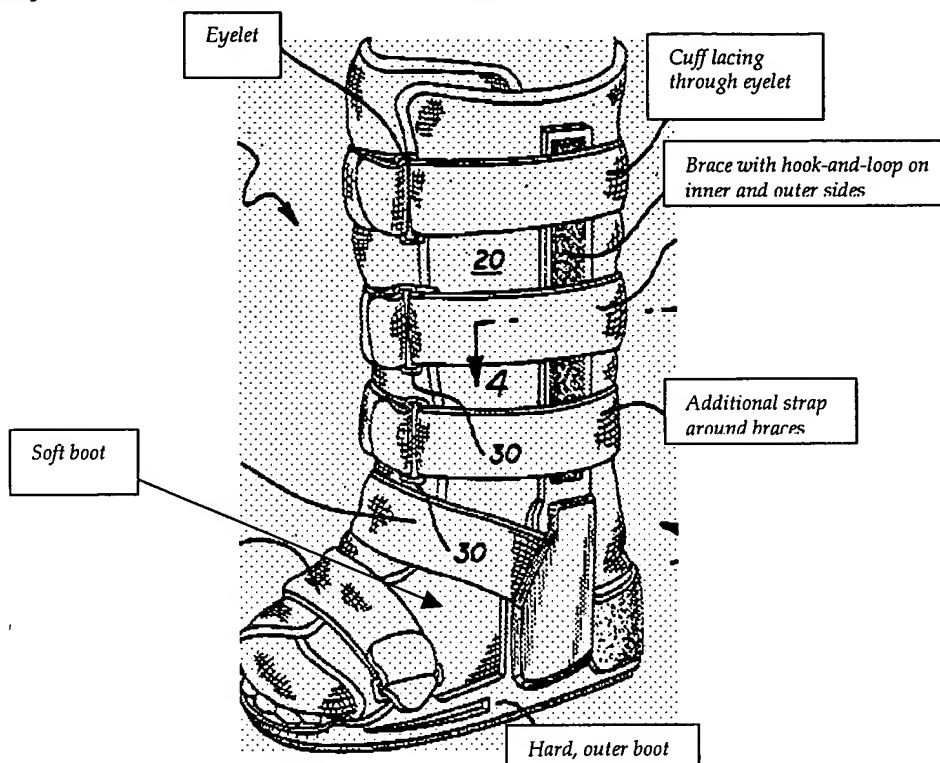
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 42-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,329,705 to Grim et al.

Grim et al. disclose a suspension walker capable of transferring at least a portion of a patient's weight normally applied to the patient's foot to the patient's calf to thereby at least partially suspend the patient's foot in the walker, said suspension walker including: a hard, outer boot shell (14) with upright brace members (16) on each side respectively extending upwardly to positions adjacent each side of the patient's calf, a soft boot (20) on said hard, outer boot shell to receive the patient's foot with said soft boot having at least a main pad (52) attached thereto, and a cuff member (28) separate from said soft boot and securable about the patient's calf, said cuff member being infinitely, adjustably securable to said brace members vertically along a predetermined length of each brace member, in at least two positions spaced different distances from the soft boot (via hook-and-loop attachments between strap 28 and brace 16; see column 3, lines 47-51). Grim et al. disclose that each brace member (16) has inner and outer sides and one of each pair of mating hook and loop fasteners is mounted vertically on the inner side of each brace member (see Figure 2, and again column 3, lines 47-51). As broadly considered, the cuff (28) is secured to the calf by laces, as the cuff (28) laces through eyelet (30)

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to be secured onto itself, by hook-and-loop fasteners on the cuff. The walker includes at least one additional strap member securable around the brace members.



Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-41 and 47-48 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 11 April 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

On page 15 of the Remarks, Applicant argues that the Grim reference does not disclose a cuff member that is separate from the soft boot, and wherein the cuff member is infinitely adjustable along the length of the brace members.

The examiner disagrees with Applicant's arguments. As clearly pointed out in the initial rejection and in the rejection above, Grim discloses a soft boot 20 and a cuff member 28. The cuff

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member is vertically adjustable along the brace member by mating hook-and-loop attachments. Applicant refers to Figure 2 of the Grim reference, as support for the argument that the soft boot and cuff are "one continuous piece 20". The examiner does not find such support in Figure 2. Figure 2 shows soft boot 20, but does not depict cuff 28. Cuff 28, and soft boot 20, are shown in Figures 1 and 4, and are clearly two separate elements.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).


A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amanda F. Wieker whose telephone number is 571-272-4794. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 7:30 - 5:00 and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Henry Bennett can be reached on 571-272-4791. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

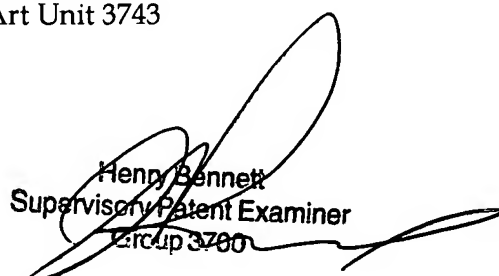


Amanda F. Wieker

Examiner

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afw



Henry Bennett
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700